

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/766,785

Examiner

Charles I. Boyer

Applicant(s)

GRANDMAIRE ET AL.

Art Unit

1751

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application received January 27, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8 and 10.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date Jul 13, 2005
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**CHARLES BOYER  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

*Charles Boyer*

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In line 4 of page 1 of the specification, after June 2, 2003, insert –now abandoned—

In line 6 of page 1 of the specification, after November 5, 2002, insert –now US Patent 6,924,261—

In line 7 of page 1 of the specification, after November 1, 2002, insert –now abandoned—

In line 2 of claim 7, after “agent” insert –further--

Cancel claim 9

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicants have claimed:

A medium viscosity clear fabric softening composition, comprising

(a) from about 1 to 20 wt.% of an oligomeric esterquat, derived

from the reaction of an alkanol amine with (i) a polycarboxylic acid; and (ii)

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a fatty alcohol or a fatty acid; or (iii) a mixture of a fatty alcohol and a fatty acid, followed by partial quaternization (leading to a mixture of oligomeric esteramine and of esterquat);

(b) at least about 0.2 wt.% dipropylene glycol, said fabric softening composition being free of isopropanol, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol and polyglycols;

(c) from about 0.2 to 2.5% of a water insoluble perfume;

(d) an effective amount of a thickening agent to provide a viscosity of from 80 to 700 mpa.s in the softening composition, said thickening agent being selected from the group consisting of (i) non-ionic water-soluble cellulosic polymer derived from the condensation of cellulose and ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide; (ii) ethoxylated and/or propoxylated fatty alcohol polyurethane associative thickener; and (iii) cationic polyacrylate copolymer; and

(e) the balance water.

The closest prior art of Bermejo et al, US 6,300,307 teaches softening actives comprising oligomeric amine esters obtained by the reaction of triethanolamine, dicarboxylic acids, and fatty acids, optionally followed by quaternization (see abstract). With respect to the presence of dipropylene glycol, the examiner notes this component may be used to facilitate quaternization of the esterquats of the invention (col. 4, line 32) as well as a viscosity controller (col. 5, line 22). However, in the first instance, though some residual dipropylene glycol may be present after quaternization, one of ordinary skill would not expect to find it in the significant amounts presently claimed. In the

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second instance, the dipropylene glycol is added to reduce the viscosity, which teaches away from the thickeners presently claimed. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate an esterquat and significant amounts of dipropylene glycol with a thickener based on the teachings of the prior art. Accordingly, the present claims are allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles I. Boyer whose telephone number is 571 272 1311. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Douglas McGinty can be reached on 571 272 1029. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles I Boyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being more prominent.

Charles I Boyer  
Primary Examiner  
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